

**MINUTES OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, October 19, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. – W025 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Carlene M. Walker, Senate Chair
Rep. Brad L. Dee, House Chair
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Rep. David N. Cox
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson
Rep. Ann W. Hardy
Rep. Brad King
Rep. M. Susan Lawrence
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Joseph G. Murray
Rep. Peggy Wallace
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

Members Absent:

Sen. L. Alma Mansell
Pres. John L. Valentine

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.leg.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Dee called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Fisher moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Walker, Rep. Cox, and Rep. Morgan absent for the vote.

2. Implementation of GIS (Geographic Information System) Related Bills

Rep. Kory Holdaway briefed the Committee on the status of the implementation of H.B. 113 "Government Boundary Changes" and H.B. 216 "Global Positioning Reference Network." He emphasized the need to gather as accurate survey data as possible.

Mr. Dennis Goreham, Manager, AGRC (Automated Geographic Reference Center), reviewed the GIS strategy in Utah and the implications of H.B. 113 and H.B. 216. He addressed individual ownership boundaries. He said that federal legislation needs Utah to get the cadastral data in order so that parcels can be compared with state, federal, and private ownership data to determine the most accurate boundaries.

Mr. Sean Fernandez, surveyor and technical support in the AGRC, highlighted provisions of H.B. 216. He explained the center's efforts to team up with local governments to extend cost and time savings for getting additional GPS base stations installed throughout the state.

3. Placing in Statute Utah's Seven AOGs (Associations of Governments)

Mr. John Williams, Executive Director, Five County Association of Governments, reviewed "The Utah Association of Governments Act 2006" distributed in the committee packet. He reviewed a recommendation to create the AOGs in statute, as well as creating a funding source.

Mr. Craig Peterson, CAP Consulting and consultant to the AOGs, spoke in favor of and further explained the need to create and recognize AOGs in statute, fund them by appropriation, and give appropriate oversight. He stated his desire to work with staff to draft legislation for the 2006 General Session.

Mr. Rees explained that the majority of AOG funding is handled through contracts. Line item funding would be provided through appropriations and would be distributed through the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget to allow for administrative services.

Chair Dee expressed his concern that codifying the AOGs would put them in a position of more state governmental control. He noted that the AOGs were created by and for the local entities who they serve. He asked the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget to comment on the proposal before a committee decision is made.

4. Acquisition of Property by Eminent Domain

Rep. David Ure explained his efforts to find a balance between the need to use eminent domain and a property owner's desire to receive court costs and a reasonable attorney's fee if the court award of compensation and damages exceeds the government's highest offer by more than ten percent. He asked to be put on November's agenda to consider legislation at that time.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

Chair Dee updated the Committee on the work of the Special Districts Subcommittee.

Mr. Rees explained in concept the legislation that is being drafted for the Special Districts Subcommittee to be considered at the November 9, 2005 Political Subdivision Interim Committee meeting.

MOTION: Rep. Cox moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. King and Rep. Morgan absent for the vote.

Chair Dee adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.